

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
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**2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 11  
Fall Update # 2, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery  
Districts Affected: Yukon Area**

**Fall Season Assessment**

The Pilot Station sonar project has been counting fall chum salmon passage since July 19. The estimated cumulative fall chum salmon total run size through July 29, based on run reconstruction using lower river project information, is 313,000 fish. This is above the average of 135,000 fish for that date. The drift test fishery projects at Emmonak and Mountain Village corroborate the timing and relative passage strength estimated by the Pilot Station sonar project. The first pulse of fall chum entered the lower Yukon River on July 17 and was estimated to be 126,000 fish in size. A second pulse entered the lower Yukon River on July 25. The number of fall chum salmon in the second pulse cannot be assessed until it completely passes the Pilot Station sonar project.

Fall chum salmon abundance projections, based on information from inseason assessment projects, are highly variable until approximately the first quarter to midpoint of the run past Pilot Station sonar project, which, on average, occurs between July 31 and August 8. Hence, current management is based on the preseason fall chum salmon run projection of greater than 900,000 fish. That run size would be adequate to meet escapement needs, provide for subsistence opportunity, personal use, and commercial harvest.

***Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing – YDFDA, ADF&G***

The cumulative CPUE for the project through July 29 was 711.6, which is above the historical median of 278.9 for that date.

***Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing - Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council and BSFA***

The project began on July 17. The cumulative CPUE for the project through July 29 was 514.3, which is above the historical median of 507.5 for that date.

### ***Pilot Station Sonar Project - ADF&G***

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through July 29 is 214,087 fish, which is above the median passage of 104,682 fish for that date.

### **Fall Season Management**

#### ***Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing***

At this time, five fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1 and three periods in District Y-2. Additional commercial fishing periods will be dependent upon inseason run strength assessment and market interest.

#### **Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:**

Period #4: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 9 hours (1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 26), remainder of District Y-1, 6 hours (4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 26).  
29,054 fall chum/208,799 lbs. (\$0.75/lb.), 6 coho/45 lbs. (\$1.00/lb.), Incidental harvest (not sold): 6 Chinook salmon.

Period #5: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 9 hours (1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 30), remainder of District Y-1, 6 hours (4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 30).  
No data available is available at this time.

The cumulative harvest for Y-1 through July 26 is 59,109 fall chum salmon and 175 coho salmon. The incidental harvest of Chinook salmon is 61 fish.

#### **Preliminary harvest information for District Y-2:**

Period #2: District Y-2, 6 hours (3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. July 25).  
2,917 fall chum/19,481 lbs. (\$0.75/lb.), 12 coho/61 lbs. (\$1.00/lb.), Incidental harvest (not sold): 4 Chinook salmon.

Period #3: District Y-2, 6 hours (3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. July 30).  
No data available is available at this time.

The cumulative harvest for Y-2 through July 26 is 16,825 fall chum salmon and 12 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon is 21 fish.

#### ***Subsistence Salmon Fishing***

Coastal District: The Coastal District is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller

Districts 1, 2, 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

The Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 4-A (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 3, use of drift gillnets to harvest fall chum salmon will be allowed in that portion of Subdistrict 4-A from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays.

In District 4, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C: Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C is open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

In an effort to protect Chinook salmon as they pass through this long section of river, Subdistrict 5-D has been divided into three separate areas.

Subdistricts 5-D-Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. Effective 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 30, subsistence salmon fishing will return the standard fishing schedule of open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day.

Subdistricts 5-D-Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the community of Fort Yukon. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice.

Subdistrict 5-D-Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Circle, and Eagle. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice.

The department will notify fishermen by August 3 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule for each portion of Subdistrict 5-D.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the downstream mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 pm Fridays until

12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 pm Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays. In the Old Minto Area, subsistence fishing for salmon is open for one five day fishing period per week from 6:00pm Fridays until 6:00pm Wednesdays.

Subdistricts 6-C (from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Personal use salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 pm Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 pm Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at (907) 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at (907) 949-1320 or the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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